

Application No.: 09/632,933
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-12 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 have been amended without introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The courtesy extended by the Examiner to Applicants' representative in a personal interview conducted on July 11, 2005 is noted with appreciation. Details of the interview are discussed below.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) [sic: 103(a)] as allegedly being anticipated by Kruse (US005148007A) in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Additionally, claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kruse in view of AAPA and further in view of Kunito et al. (US5006577633). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

During the above-mentioned personal interview, the parties discussed the patentability of the claims in view of the patent to Kruse and AAPA. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner advised that if the following changes were made, the various rejections involving the Kruse patent would be overcome:

1) Move the preamble limitation introduced in Applicants' last-filed amendment (i.e., "wherein the ACO is a number ...") to the body of the claim in each of independent claims 1 and 6.

2) In independent claim 1, change the step of "generating the ACO as a function of one or more parameters ..." to read "generating the ACO as a function of two or more parameters ..." (emphasis added). Also make a similar change to independent claim 6. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the specification, including for example, Equation (3) (found on page 15), which involves both X and ACO_{k-1} in deriving a value for ACO_k . Dependent claims should also be changed to be compatible with the changes made to the independent claims.

3) Combine independent claim 1 with dependent claim 2; and combine independent claim 6 with dependent claim 7. Dependent claims 2 and 7 would then be canceled to avoid redundancy.

Applicants believe that the existing claims presently define embodiments that are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. However, in the interest of expediting

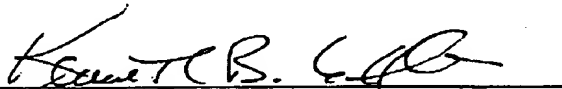
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favorable prosecution, the amendments presented herewith effect all three of the changes set forth above. It is therefore requested that the rejections of claims 1, 3-6, and 8-12 under any of Sections 102 and 103 be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: July 14, 2005

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